Guilford Wilson Co Kan Oct 4th 1870

Dear Mother

Your kind and ever welcome letter of Aug 29th Came to hand Some days ago In my last I wrote you that I was preparing to Sell goods But who Can foresee the vicissitudes of human life Now my business prospects are widely different Then I had the Letter of a dealer Saying that he would furnish me with all the goods I wanted but before I could possibly get ready another party opened a Store in our place buying goods of the Same firm & knocking me out of business & perhaps it is better for me Since then I was Sent for by Hoag the Superintendent of Indian Affairs to Survey the 96 Meridian West Longitude for Govt for which I am to get about $130 I am now Selected by the President of a R R Company to make a topographical Survey of a R R Line & I think they will perhaps make me permanent Civil Engineer of the Company I got these appointments without Seeking There are a number of Surveyors in the County but I had established a reputation that won On all these Surveys my wages are ($6) Six Dollars per Day

There is more money without any of the sick in this town there is no selling goods & hope to get a contract soon from the Indian Department to bury the Osage Indians I have also instructed Judge Aiken Register of the U. S. Land Office at Augusta to put in a bid for me on the Osage Diminished Reserve Lands If I am fortunate enough to secure this last it will make me a fortune if I live to complete it and any one is a good job But whether I will get any of them or not I cannot tell If I get a good appointment or a contract I am all right in a pecuniary point of view I am afflicted with rheumatism so that I cannot work any more to amount to much Lemuel is sick today with fever but we hope it is transient Oliver has been sick but is playing today Martha is up all the time but her general health is no better There seems to be no prospect of our ever being long free from the diseases of a miasmatic region while we stay in the river valley I do not think I will ever be able to work much more although my health except Rheumatism is

tolerable good There is a vast amount of enterprise in this County They are opening farms, building up towns, Mills Rail Roads &c &c everywhere even where a few months ago the Red man roamed untrammelled with the pomp & Bustle & activity of civiliza-tion And so the world bustles on changing changing over Portions of this Country that I travelled over two short years ago that knew not the white man are now dotted over with farms and towns & vilages and look as though they had been settled for years
The day on which the Osages Signed the Treaty Montgomery County had 7400 inhabitants & this County lying next on the north & two years older 200 more We are pretty sure of at least one Rail Road and if it comes through I propose to make something out of it Tell them all to write to me No one ever writes to me but my mother She will never forget her boy

Your Affectionate Son
A. H. Perry

P.S. I forgot to tell you that your dream Came to pass about the time you dreamed it. I did run a line to the Arkansas River striking the River 40 miles above Ft Gibson 157 miles from